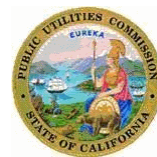


BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FILED

5-09-16
04:59 PM

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Approval of its Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2015-2017.

Application 14-11-007
(Filed November 18, 2014)

And Related Matters.

Application 14-11- 009
Application 14-11- 010
Application 14-11-011

**RESPONSE OF THE OFFICE OF RATEPAYER ADVOCATES TO THE JOINT
MOTION FOR 2016 BRIDGE FUNDING**

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 22, 2016 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed a motion on behalf of itself and Southern California Edison Company (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), (collectively Joint Utilities) for the Commission to authorize an interim bridge funding period for the continued operation of two low income programs, the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESA) and California Alternate Rates for Energy Program (CARE), and the operation of cooling centers, for the second half of the 2016 program year. The Joint Utilities also requested expedited resolution of their motion for authorization of interim bridge funding.

ORA supports this Joint Utilities' request for bridge funding.

II. ORA Supports 2016 Bridge Funding In The Event A Final Decision Is Not Issued By June 1, 2016

CARE and ESA are critical utility affordability programs. These programs serve a large minority of the entire California population. The Joint Utilities are correct in seeking to ensure continued funding for these programs in the event the Commission does not issue a Final Decision in adequate time for implementation of the 2016 programs.

The Joint Utilities seek the same level of funding for the vital CARE and ESA programs that the Commission authorized for 2015 and in D.15-12-024, which authorized bridge funding for the first 6 months of 2016. The Joint Utilities express a strong preference that the Commission issues a timely final decision on their Applications rather than extending bridge funding. However, if that does not occur, the Joint Utilities propose that any approved bridge funding end on the date that Commission adopts a final decision on the Applications filed on November 18, 2014 in this proceeding, with a reasonable time period for transition from bridge funding to the adopted funding levels for low income programs.

ORA shares the Joint Utilities' preference for a decision on the full Applications, and supports the request that bridge funding be extended in the event that a Decision is not issued in a timely manner, in order to avoid interruption of the CARE and ESA programs.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ NOEL OBIORA

NOEL OBIORA

Attorney for the Office of Ratepayer Advocates

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 703-5987
Fax: (415) 703-2262

May 9, 2015